

### Introduction:

**Biblical practice #1:** Serve your mate John 13

**Biblical practice #2:** Plan together John 14

**Biblical practice #3:** Connect with each other John 15

*“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. <sup>9</sup> Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. <sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.*

<sup>12</sup> *“This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.*

<sup>13</sup> *Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> You are My friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. <sup>17</sup> This I command you, that you love one another.*

John 15:1-17

### How do we stay connected?

1. Jesus is the true vine and we are the branches. He is the source of life.
2. Fruitfulness – an extraordinary life with extraordinary impact.
3. Love results in heartfelt obedience.
4. The result of abiding is intimacy and it results in supernatural joy.

### Principles:

1. You can't impart what you do not possess. You must \_\_\_\_\_ in Him to have His love to give to your mate.
2. Connection is built on \_\_\_\_\_ – quality and quantity of time spent with one another.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is the fruit or the overflow of connection with Christ and with one another. It will \_\_\_\_\_ you.

### Practical implications:

1. Your personal walk with God is critical to a great marriage.
2. The key to a joyful marriage is communication skill and practice.
3. The connection is of the mind, the body, the emotions, and the spirit.

### Tools for transformation:

- “The conference”
- Pray and ask God to speak to him/her
- The CARE list – “I feel most loved when you...”

Proverbs 21:1

### Discussion Questions:

1. Why was Jesus so concerned about those He loved staying connected to Him?
2. Which of the principles most challenged your thinking and/or practice of connecting with your mate?
3. What practical activities, actions, and words make you feel most connected to your mate?
4. Take 10 minutes and have “a conference” to connect your mind and hearts.
  - What are you concerned about?
  - What do you wish?
  - What are you willing to do?